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Letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you herewith a press release by the Government of Burundi on the alleged presence of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda in Burundi (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Press release by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burundi concerning the alleged presence of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda in Burundi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has taken note of a press release issued by the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 4 May 2015 regarding concerns expressed by the Government of Rwanda in response to what it terms the "deterioration in the situation in Burundi".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform the nation and the international community that peace and security prevail throughout the country, with the exception of a few districts in the capital, Bujumbura, which since 26 April 2015 have been rocked by illegal, violent demonstrations by certain opposition political elements and civil society activists.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to reassure the Government of Rwanda that no elements of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda are present on Burundian territory. Opposition political elements and civil society activists have cited the presence of the Forces and of the Interahamwe on Burundian soil with the aim of clouding the good relations of friendship and cooperation existing between these two fraternal countries. In this regard, the Ministry again deplores the base murder by demonstrators of a Congolese national and the torture of a Franco-Burundian citizen, and offers its sympathy to the families concerned.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to reaffirm its commitment to its policy of good-neighbourliness and to reassure the Government of Rwanda that no Rwandan trouble-makers will be accepted or tolerated on Burundian territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reiterates its gratitude to the Government of Rwanda for its close cooperation with Burundian authorities in the efforts to promote the speedy return of refugees, and hopes that the region and the international community as a whole will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and Government of Burundi in supporting the ongoing electoral process as the only means of consolidating democracy, peace and stability in Burundi and the region.

Bujumbura, 6 May 2015